

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS27519 / H0470

This legislation provides for the establishment of a new statewide resource to assist schools and libraries in their efforts to improve youth literacy. The bill directs the State Department of Education to contract for the creation of an online digital library of non-fiction books targeted at students in elementary and middle school. Books in the digital library would be vetted for appropriate content, made available to students based on reading level and/or grade level, and would provide educators a way of making copies of the same book available to multiple students at the same time. The program should also provide feedback to educators to help provide literacy instruction to students. As our schools continue their focus on literacy, many do not have the resources to provide additional tools for teachers, paraprofessionals and librarians who are working with our students. This bill aims to give them one such tool.

FISCAL NOTE

The implementation of the bill is subject to an appropriation from the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee and would be scaled as funds are made available. It is anticipated to start in a pilot phase which would, if successful, move to statewide implementation. Based on costs in other locations, it is anticipated that the maximum expense for a full, statewide implementation would be approximately \$1.5 million.

Contact:

Representative Ron Mendive
(208) 332-1000
Kate Haas
(202) 256-2613

DISCLAIMER: This statement of purpose and fiscal note are a mere attachment to this bill and prepared by a proponent of the bill. It is neither intended as an expression of legislative intent nor intended for any use outside of the legislative process, including judicial review (Joint Rule 18).